

CHAPTER 5

**VETERINARY SUPPORT IN STABILITY
AND SUPPORT OPERATIONS****5-1. Stability and Support Operations**

a. Today, the US Army is often required, in its role as a strategic force, to protect and further the interest of the US at home and abroad in a variety of ways other than war. Stability and support operations may precede and/or follow war, or occur simultaneously with war in the same theater. Stability and support operations may be conducted during peacetime; they may also involve conflict. These operations may be conducted in conjunction with wartime operations to complement the achievement of strategic objectives. They may support a combatant commander's forward-presence operations or a US ambassador's country plan. Stability and support operations may occur in the US. They are designed to promote regional stability, maintain or achieve democratic end states, retain US influence and access abroad, provide humane assistance to distressed areas, protect US interests, and assist US civil authorities. The national command authorities may commit US Army units to operations pertaining to—

- Nation assistance.
- Security assistance.
- Humanitarian assistance and disaster relief.
- Support to counterdrug operations.
- Peace enforcement operations.
- Peacekeeping operations.
- Arms control.
- Combating terrorism.
- Show of force.
- Attacks and raids.
- Noncombatant evacuation operations.
- Support for insurgencies and counterinsurgencies.
- Domestic support operations.

b. In support of the operations identified above, the provisions of CHS and health education play a more direct role in countering both the medical and general threat. Combat health support for SASO can be defined as those actions taken (encompassing all military health-related activities) or programs established

to further US national goals, objectives, and missions. In SASO, the interrelationship of human and animal health, disease transmission, and economics is often complex. It can affect the overall health of a country. Livestock (horses, cattle, goats, and hogs) affect both the economy and public health. The care and immunization of these important resources merit attention in the planning and resourcing of nation assistance, support to counterinsurgency operations, and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations. Consumable veterinary drugs and supplies necessary for care of livestock are not normally available through military supply channels. These supplies must be resourced and procured early in the mission planning and development phases of the operation.

- c.* Veterinary service can contribute to the success of CHS in SASO. This is accomplished by—
 - Ensuring that foodstuffs and food sources are inspected for wholesomeness, quality, and sanitation.
 - Providing care for government-owned animals (MWDs and pack animals).
 - Helping to improve the public health of the population with such programs as—
 - Vaccinations for zoonotic diseases.
 - Public health and sanitation training.
 - Training in food hygiene, safety, and inspection techniques.
 - Animal husbandry programs when specifically authorized.

5-2. Noncombatant Evacuation Operations

a. Noncombatant evacuation operations are conducted to relocate civilian noncombatants and nonessential military personnel from locations in a foreign (host) nation during times of endangerment to a designated safe haven. These operations are normally conducted to evacuate US citizens whose lives are in danger from a hostile environment or natural disaster. They may also include the evacuation of US military personnel and dependents, selected citizens of the HN, and third country nationals. These operations are of short duration and consist of rapidly inserting a force, occupying an objective, and making a planned withdrawal. The amount of force used is normally limited to that required for self-defense and the defense of the operation. The level of hostilities encountered varies with each specific mission. The key factor in planning for this type of operation is the correct appraisal of the politico-military environment.

b. Veterinary support for NEO depends upon the planned length of the operation and whether privately owned pets will be abandoned, euthanized, or retrograded.

(1) If privately owned pets are retrograded, veterinary support is required to ensure that exotic foreign animal diseases are not transferred to the US. If the pets are to be euthanized, veterinary support is required to ensure that the process is conducted in a safe and humane manner.

(2) If the NEO takes several days to complete, the prevention of foodborne and waterborne diseases is important. In these operations, local food supplies are normally used to feed the evacuees while they are in the assembly area. As a result of the factors leading up to the necessity to conduct NEO, the food supplies are often severely deteriorated. This subsistence requires careful inspection by highly trained and experienced personnel to ensure food wholesomeness, hygiene, and safety.

5-3. Domestic Support Operations

a. When the appropriate governmental authority requests the military services through command channels to provide veterinary support in domestic emergencies within CONUS, US Army veterinary units/personnel will resource the requirement.

b. Veterinary support may be required in disaster assistance operations to ensure the quality and wholesomeness of food supply. Additional support which may be required includes the care and treatment of privately owned pets and wild animals which are injured and sick as a result of the disaster or which are separated from their owners. Ensuring that animals in the disaster area have been vaccinated against rabies and other diseases transmissible to humans will help lower the incidence of disease.

5-4. Humanitarian and Disaster Relief Operations

a. Humanitarian and disaster relief operations provide emergency assistance to victims of natural and man-made disasters abroad. These operations are responses to requests for immediate help and rehabilitation from foreign governments or international agencies.

b. Veterinary support for humanitarian and disaster relief operations may be required. For example, food supplies used in humanitarian and disaster relief operations are normally quickly procured, often without proper specifications. These supplies usually approximate native diets. Veterinary personnel ensure that only safe and wholesome food supplies are used. In the aftermath of a disaster, such as a hurricane, there will be many animals (privately owned pets, livestock, and wild animals) wandering through disaster sites. Some of these animals will be injured. Veterinary personnel are required to effectively deal with this problem for the safety of disaster victims, rescue workers, and the animals. Further, veterinary personnel can assist in the control of the spread of zoonotic disease. (See paragraph 5-3 and Appendix F for additional information on veterinary support for disaster relief.) (Also, see Appendix G, Veterinary Role in Civil-Military Operations, for additional information.)

5-5. Security Assistance

a. Security assistance consists of the group of programs authorized by the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (amended), the Arms Export Act of 1976 (amended), and other related statutes. Through security assistance programs, the US provides defense materiel, military training, and defense-related service by grant, loan, credit, or cash sales to further its national policies and objectives.

b. Veterinary support may be required when friendly or allied nations face an imminent threat and require logistical support.

(1) If logistical support includes transporting subsistence, there will be an increased demand to inspect the cargos for wholesomeness. The conditions imposed by short-notice deployments may stress food due to the lack of refrigeration or other factors, thereby requiring additional inspections.

(2) The assistance provided may include MWDs or government-owned pack animals. These animals will require veterinary support to sustain them and ensure they remain disease free.

5-6. Support to Counterdrug Operations

a. Military efforts principally support law enforcement agencies, the counterdrug effort of other US agencies, the states, and cooperating foreign governments to interdict the flow of illegal drugs at the source, in transit, and during distribution.

b. Veterinary support to counterdrug operations may include—

- Caring for government-owned animals used in these operations.
- Assisting the HN in developing alternate forms of agriculture/livestock production to produce revenue. This assists in decreasing their dependency on drug crops.

5-7. Combating Terrorism

a. Combating terrorism has two major components—antiterrorism and counterterrorism. During peacetime, the US Army combats terrorism primarily through antiterrorism, which is the passive defensive measures taken to minimize vulnerability to terrorism. Antiterrorism is a form of force protection and, thus the responsibility of US Army commanders at all levels. Antiterrorism complements counterterrorism, which is the full range of offensive measures taken to prevent, deter, and respond to terrorism. Counterterrorism occurs in conflict and war; antiterrorism occurs across the range of military operations.

b. It is important that veterinary personnel be involved in the planning to counter the terrorist threat. The veterinary service may play a key role in antiterrorism. The terrorist threat may include the employment of NBC weapons/agents. Veterinary personnel must be alert to the potential use of these NBC weapons/agents and report any suspected use to appropriate authorities. Personnel, animals, and food supplies and sources (such as crops) are highly susceptible to biological agents. Veterinary personnel must be prepared to inspect potentially contaminated foodstuffs and care for affected animals.

5-8. Peace Operations

a. Peace operations encompass a wide range of activities which establish or sustain peaceful conditions or foster the conditions essential to establishing peace. Peace operations include essentially

diplomatic activities under the titles of peacemaking, peace building, peacekeeping, peace enforcement, and preventive deployment. Other activities which support peace operations may include humanitarian and nation assistance. The involvement of US forces is limited in peacekeeping and peace building operations because these activities occur mainly in the political arena. Veterinary support is required in most peace operations. For information pertaining to overall CHS for peace operations, see FM 8-42.

b. Due to the nature of these operations, field expedient food procurement systems may be established. If this occurs, ensuring that the food, bottled water, and packaged ice procured is safe for consumption is an important mission for veterinary personnel.

c. In peace operations, MWDs may be required to perform many tasks (such as guarding areas and conducting bomb searches). Veterinary support is required to sustain the use of these and other government-owned animals.

5-9. Support for Insurgencies and Counterinsurgencies

a. The areas of support for insurgency and counterinsurgency provide the greatest challenges and are the most complex programs in SASO.

(1) *Insurgency.* Insurgency is an organized, armed, implemented political struggle whose goal may be the seizure of power through revolutionary takeover and replacement of the existing government. In some cases, however, insurgency undertakes to break away from government control and establish an autonomous state within traditional ethnic or religious territorial bounds. It may even be conducted to extract limited political concessions that are unattainable through less violent means.

(2) *Counterinsurgency.* The Internal Defense and Development (IDAD) strategy is the full range of measures taken by a nation to promote its growth and protect itself from subversion, lawlessness, and insurgency. It focuses on building viable institutions (political, economic, military, and social) that respond to the need of the society. Developmental programs, carefully planned, implemented, and publicized, can serve the interests of population groups and deny exploitable health issues to the insurgents.

b. Veterinary support for insurgency operations may include providing training to indigenous guerrilla forces in establishing a food procurement system, inspecting food, caring for MWDs and pack animals, and caring for and managing livestock. Special Operations Forces personnel are initial participants in unconventional warfare (UW) and their training and veterinary skills are used to a limited extent in these situations.

c. The use of veterinary resources and expertise in counterinsurgency includes support to US troops, assistance to HN military forces, and/or support for nation assistance operations.

(1) The support of US troops is largely characterized by traditional services rendered by the veterinary services such as—

- Treating government-owned animals.

- Ensuring the wholesomeness and safety of the US military food supplies.
- Ensuring the local procurement process for food items has adequate food hygiene, safety, and quality assurance.

(2) As US military CHS involvement increases, the veterinary service can assist in the assessment of the HN's veterinary program.

NOTE

Special Operations Forces personnel are early participants in counter-insurgency operations and their medical assets (the special forces medic and attached veterinary personnel) are trained in the basics of animal husbandry and food inspection. Coupled with their civil affairs techniques, language skills, and knowledge of the culture, they can interface with the HN's residents and can be effectively used to enhance the HN's economic stability. They can provide guidance, training and support for HN's military animal care program.

Once established, the veterinary service can assist in establishing a food procurement system or in enhancing an already existing system.

(3) The US Veterinary Service's most challenging and nontraditional roles include enhancing the stability of the HN government and assisting in establishing programs that benefit the HN's populace. Veterinary service participation in humanitarian activities must be thoroughly coordinated through the country team. Coordination with such agencies as the Department of State, US Agency for International Development (USAID), and HN counterpart agencies may be required.

NOTE

The US Army veterinarian is not a member of the country team. Face-to-face coordination with relevant members of other US governmental and HN agencies, however, is indispensable if veterinary programs are to be successful.

(a) The USAID is responsible for helping HNs improve their health care system (including veterinary care). The US Department of Agriculture is often involved with developing these programs. Both agencies are frequently not on-site for executing programs, but rather contract with outside agencies for the actual implementation.

(b) The US military often has veterinary resources and a logistical support system already in-country to execute and effectively promote such programs. The military veterinarian (after

thorough research, coordination, and assessment of his capabilities and resources) can develop course(s) of action (COA) to support the overall veterinary effort.

(4) Well-developed veterinary programs have the ability to impact across a wide range of interests (such as public health, medical, nutritional, and economic areas). These programs must complement the social, religious, and political factors present in the HN. Proposed veterinary programs require analysis and evaluation prior to their implementation. These programs should address the specific problem areas that tend to foster the insurgency in a given region. For example, if the principal issue underlying the insurgency is a religious one, the application of a successful program to eradicate brucellosis in goats will have little impact on the HN's ability to survive the insurgency. On the other hand, if the central dilemma is an expanding population without economic growth, the insurgent may base his strategy on the HN's inability to provide for the basic needs such as food, fuel, clothes, and housing. In this situation, the use of a program to control hog cholera on small farms would increase pork production. The control of this disease would have a result in increased food production, increased income for the farmer, and perhaps of most importance, the ability to change the diet from one based on grain to one which includes meat. This gives the population the perception that their status in life is improving. Changes such as these directly attack the insurgent's principal issue, defuse the insurgent's psychological operations, and at the same time bolster the credibility and popular support of the HN government.

NOTE

Veterinarians must ensure the programs developed are in consonance with local customs, values, and religious ideologies. For example, it would do no good to increase hog production in a Muslim or Jewish country, beef production in a Hindu country, or any of the above if the people are vegetarians.

(5) In developing, coordinating, and establishing US military veterinary support to the Foreign Internal Defense (FID) effort, several factors must be considered.

(a) The primary issue is to determine the specific veterinary support required. If the mission is a combination of activities, then priorities must be established. Once the mission is established, the level of veterinary resources and assets available is determined. The planning considerations include, but are not limited to—

- State of development of the HN's veterinary infrastructure.
- Accessibility and affordability of the HN's veterinary services.
- Human and animal disease prevalence data.
- Status of agricultural production system.

- Determination of the local names for common diseases.
- Climatic factors.
- Agriculture economics (market system, cooperative, banking).
- Infrastructure (roads, rivers, electric power).
- Availability of animal foodstuffs.
- Types and amounts of immunizations for chemoprophylaxis for livestock.

(b) The programs which are developed should focus on long-term projects. The *quick fix* should also be avoided in this arena. However, there are a number of programs which can be developed and would require only short-term US military involvement. These include, but are not limited to—

- immunity.
- Vaccination programs in which a single-dose application provides lasting
- project).
- Village-level external parasite control facilities (dipping vat construction
- Vampire bat control program.
- grazing capabilities.
- Water well and windmill construction in selected areas to improve animal
- Local control of toxic plants on grazing lands.

(c) Long-term programs to improve animal health and increase production based on solid economics and the phaseout of US assistance are optimal solutions for changing some of the environmental conditions that insurgents focus on. Such programs must be developed after extensive evaluation by regional experts. Programs requiring active participation by local financial institutions tend to be extremely successful. They provide incentive, produce tangible rewards, and succeed. An example would be a requirement by local banks for livestock production loans to have the producer feed mineralized salt and vaccinate the cattle against hoof and mouth disease in order to secure the loan.

(6) Innovation and creativity are the hallmark of a successful nation assistance program. Veterinary service capabilities include—

- Assisting in veterinary laboratory development.
- Assisting in vaccine production development.
- Training HN or indigenous personnel.

- Assisting in the development of a drug and vaccine distribution system.
- Assisting in the development of disease control and eradication strategies.
- Improving food plant sanitation.
- Conducting epidemiological surveys.
- Assisting in animal disease and parasite control.
- Developing a food inspection system.
- Developing education and exchange programs.
- Serving as advisors for veterinary activities.